

MEMORIAL

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA,

For an appropriation of Land for the benefit of that Institution.

MAY 4, 1836.

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

TALLAHASSEE, April 2, 1836.

The undersigned, the Trustees of the *University of Florida*, beg leave to present to the Congress of the United States the following petition, showing that they have had their attention, for some time past, drawn to the subject of education in the Territory of Florida, and to the wants of its inhabitants, in connexion with education. The result of their consideration of the circumstances of the Territory, and its necessities, in connexion with education, has presented to them the following particulars: First, Owing to the circumstance of the families being scattered over a large tract of country, the system of common schools, for the present, is not a practicable one, as the children would necessarily have to travel too far to reach the location of their school-houses. This results in part from the fact that the country is, as yet, but thinly settled; and between the richer tracts of land which are occupied, and which are in themselves limited in extent, there are extensive and sterile piny woods intervening, which will always render the population a scattered one.

Again, It is believed to be a generally conceded truth, that all popular governments depend on the virtue and intelligence of the people; and that virtue and intelligence can be expected only as the result of a correct and efficient system of education. With this fact in view, the undersigned believe it to be greatly important to our people, that the *best system* of which the circumstances of the Territory will admit, should be introduced AT ONCE, BEFORE *our habits and institutions become too well established to be easily changed*. And they are persuaded that the best, *if not the only practicable* system of education in the Territory, is the establishment of a seminary of learning, in some favorable position of the same, which shall induce the different families of the Territory to send to it their sons.

The undersigned would further represent, that the present state of the Territory is such, that but little reliance can be had upon individual contributions, in giving successful and permanent establishment to a general seminary of learning in the Territory. The undersigned turn,

therefore, to Congress, whose prerogative it is to legislate for the welfare of the Territories, and who have already, with much liberality, consulted their wants. In so doing, the undersigned at once find that Congress has already, with what is deemed to have been commendable forethought, made provision for the establishment of a University in the Territory, by reserving two townships of land, one in East and one in West Florida, which shall be devoted to such seminary of learning, when the Territory *shall become a State*. But, as that period may yet be some time in the future, and as the wants of the Territory, in connexion with education, are as great now as they then will be, and probably, considering her dependence, those wants, at the present moment, are *still greater*, therefore, your petitioners desire that these lands may *at once be rendered available* for the benefit of the *University of Florida*, of which the undersigned are the Trustees. They believe that Congress, by so doing, will, by its act, most successfully secure the designed end of the providing statute already alluded to, which was to promote education in the Territory; and *thus, at once*, give to the Territory the needed benefit of the most practicable system of education of which the present circumstances of the people will admit.

For the present the lands are *unproductive*.

They are subject to *trespass and spoliation*.

They will continue in this state of *unproductiveness, trespass, and spoliation*, so long as they are held as *public and university lands*, owing to the difficulty of managing such public lands successfully for the purposes designed.

They are now so near their *maximum price*, that their sale and the investment of their proceeds would be advisable at *this time*.

All which is respectfully submitted and asked; and your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

R. K. CALL,
JOHN G. GAMBLE,
THOMAS RANDALL,
LOUIS M. GOLDSBOROUGH,
THOS. ESTON RANDOLPH,
F. EPPES,
E. LOOCKERMAN,
BENJAMIN CHAIRES,
TURBUTT R. BETTON,
FITCH W. TAYLOR,
J. LORING WOART,
ASHBEEL STEELE,
J. EDWIN STEWART.

AN ACT to authorize the Governor and Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida to sell the lands heretofore reserved for the benefit of a general seminary of learning in said Territory.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled, That the Governor and Legislative Council of the Terri-

tory of Florida shall be, and they are hereby, authorized to sell and convey in fee-simple, for the benefit of the UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, of which Joseph M. White, R. K. Call, Thomas Randall, Thomas Eston Randolph, John G. Gamble, Louis M. Goldsborough, Benjamin Chaires, Turbutt R. Betton, F. Eppes, E. Loockerman, Fitch W. Taylor, J. Loring Woart, J. Edwin Stewart, and Ashbeel Steele, are trustees, all or any part of the two townships of land heretofore reserved and appropriated by Congress for the establishment and support of a seminary of learning in the Territory of Florida; and to appropriate so much of the money arising from the sale thereof as may be deemed expedient for the erection of commodious and durable buildings for said seminary of learning; for the purchase of apparatus, and whatever else may be suitable for such seminary; and to invest the remainder, after said appropriations, in some productive funds, the proceeds of which shall be devoted forever to the benefit of said seminary, under the name of the University of Florida.

No. 455, SEC. 11.

"And be it further enacted, That an entire township in each of the districts of East and West Florida, shall be reserved from sale for the use of a Seminary of learning, to be located by the Secretary of the Treasury."

No. 590, SEC. 1.

"AN ACT to provide for the location of two townships of land reserved for a seminary of learning, in the Territory of Florida," &c.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the township of land reserved in the district of East Florida, by an act of Congress, approved the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, for a seminary of learning, shall be located East of the Appalachicola river, and may be located in sections corresponding with any of the legal divisions into which the public lands are authorized to be surveyed, so as not to interfere with private land claims, or the rights of pre-emption.

"And the township located west of the Appalachian river, as directed in the foresaid act, so far as it is covered by the claims of those entitled to the right of pre-emption, by the act approved the 22d April, 1826, shall be located in sections, upon any unappropriated lands in said district or country, until the amount taken by said interferences shall be satisfied and discharged.

"SEC. 2. That the Governor and Legislative Council of said Territory shall have power to take possession of the lands granted for the use of schools and a *seminary of learning*, and to lease the same from year to year, and the money arising from the rent of said land shall be appropriated to the use of schools and the *erection of a seminary of learning*, in such manner as they may direct; and they shall have power to pass laws for the preservation of said land from intrusion and trespass, until Florida shall be admitted into the Union as a State."

